

## Message Text

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22

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 AF-08 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 ACDA-07 MMO-01 IO-13 /087 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:TJWAJDA:RLW

APPROVED BY EA/ANP:CASQUIRE

PM/ISO:CMDR. BURGESS

DOD/ISA:LTC. DOUSE (SUBS.)

DOD/ISA/FMRA:SGOLDSMITH (SUBS.)

EUR/NE:JSHUMATE

----- 004238

P R 082205Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

SECDEF

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251241

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, XO

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN REQUEST TO USE DIEGO GARCIA

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR ARGALL DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF RAAF USE OF DIEGO GARCIA WITH DEPTOFF OCTOBER 8 AND LEFT FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE: QUOTE:

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS APPROACHING THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE USE OF DIEGO GARCIA BY LONG RANGE MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE TO INCREASE THE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF AUSTRALIAN SURVEILLANCE IN THE INDIAN  
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OCEAN.

IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THERE WAS SOME INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF THE ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING IN CANBERRA IN AUGUST 1976.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS IN MIND THE USE OF ORION AIRCRAFT FOR THIS ACTIVITY WHICH WOULD NORMALLY BE STAGED THROUGH COCOS TO DIEGO GARCIA AND WOULD RETURN FROM DIEGO GARCIA TO AUSTRALIA. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED OVER-FLIGHTS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN WOULD BE OCEAN SURVEILLANCE. THE USE OF DIEGO GARCIA WOULD ENABLE AN EXTENSION OF OUR PRESENT REGULAR SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS THROUGH COCOS.

AT THE PRESENT TIME AUSTRALIA ENVISAGES THAT THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF FLIGHTS THROUGH COCOS WOULD BE TWO AIRCRAFT PER MONTH BUT SUCH A FREQUENCY WOULD RARELY BE ATTAINED.

AUSTRALIA WOULD APPRECIATE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE ADVICE OF THE ACCEPTABILITY OF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT TO THE UNITED STATES. AS NOTED ABOVE A SEPARATE APPROACH IS BEING MADE TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. END QUOTE.

2. FOR CANBERRA AND LONDON: DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON GOA REQUEST.

3. FOR LONDON: SINCE GOA IS APPROACHING HMG DIRECTLY, IT DOES NOT APPEAR NECESSARY FOR USG TO MAKE PARALLEL APPROACH. HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS POINT. DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO COORDINATE WITH BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

4. REQUEST REPLY BY COB OCTOBER 13. ROBINSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**To:** CANBERRA LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
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